



Brownfields 2006 Grant Fact Sheet

Humboldt County, CA

EPA Brownfields Program

EPA's Brownfields Program empowers states, communities, and other stakeholders to work together to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields. A brownfield site is real property, the expansion, redevelopment, or reuse of which may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant. On January 11, 2002, President George W. Bush signed into law the Small Business Liability Relief and Brownfields Revitalization Act. Under the Brownfields Law, EPA provides financial assistance to eligible applicants through four competitive grant programs: assessment grants, revolving loan fund grants, cleanup grants, and job training grants. Additionally, funding support is provided to state and tribal response programs through a separate mechanism.

Community Description

Humboldt County was selected to receive a brownfields revolving loan fund grant. Located in rural northwestern California, Humboldt County (population 126,518) has suffered with the decline of its two largest industries, timber and fishing. In the 1950s, the lumber industry employed approximately half of the county's labor force. By 1997, it constituted less than eight percent of the county's employment. Although some of these lost jobs have been replaced by service and tourism-sector jobs, the new jobs offer the lowest average salaries. As living wages declined, housing prices increased, putting home ownership out of reach for more than 85 percent of county residents. The poverty rate in Humboldt County is 19.5 percent, and the unemployment rate is 6.3 percent. The county has identified 186 leaking underground fuel tank sites



Revolving Loan Fund Grant



**\$800,000 for hazardous substances
\$200,000 for petroleum**

EPA has selected Humboldt County for a revolving loan fund grant. The grant will be used to capitalize a revolving loan fund from which Humboldt County will provide loans and subgrants to support cleanup activities at sites contaminated with hazardous substances and petroleum. Grant funds will be used to conduct oversight of cleanup activities and solicit and incorporate community involvement.

Contacts

For further information, including specific grant contacts, additional grant information, brownfields news and events, and publications and links, visit the EPA Brownfields web site at: www.epa.gov/brownfields.

EPA Region 9 Brownfields Team
415-972-3092

<http://www.epa.gov/region09/waste/brown/index.html>

Grant Recipient: Humboldt County, CA
707-268-3735

The cooperative agreement for this grant has not yet been negotiated; therefore, activities described in this fact sheet are subject to change.

and 108 sites contaminated with hazardous substances suspected of impacting water quality. In addition, county staff have identified more than 1,500 acres where the presence or potential presence of environmental contamination hinders expansion, reuse, and redevelopment. After brownfields site cleanup, the properties will be used to facilitate the growth of manufacturing and other industries to replace the declining timber industry, as well as other resource-based industries. Brownfields redevelopment is ex-

pected to alleviate the shortage of industrial land in the county, attract and retain businesses and tourists, and address low-income housing shortages.